

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for ensuring absence of ink on a contact surface of an elastomeric stamp when transferring an ink pattern to a surface of a second substrate, the method comprising acts of:

providing a barrier layer having a first affinity for ink on the elastomeric stamp having a bulk surface, and at least one protruding feature protruding from the bulk surface, the protruding feature having the contact surface and an edge extending from the contact surface to the bulk surface, the barrier layer covering the contact surface, and the edge, on the protruding feature and the bulk surface;

applying a solution of the ink and a solvent to the barrier layer, the barrier layer preventing molecules of the ink from penetrating the elastomeric stamp and having a first affinity for the ink;

contacting the contact surface of the protruding feature with a surface of a first substrate for duration of a first contact time, the surface of the first substrate having a second affinity for the ink higher than the first affinity of the barrier layer, the contacting resulting in a transfer of all of the ink from the contact surface of the protruding feature to the surface of the first substrate such that none of the ink remains on the contact surface of

the protruding feature due to the surface of the first substrate having the higher second affinity for the ink being higher than the first affinity of the barrier layer; and

contacting the contact surface of the protruding feature with a surface of the second substrate for duration of a second contact time, the surface of the second substrate having the higher second a third affinity for the ink higher than the first affinity of the barrier layer, the contacting resulting in a transfer of only the ink pattern from the edge of the protruding feature to the surface of the second substrate.

2. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an act of removing a part of the surface of the second substrate defined by the ink pattern.

3. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the removing of the part of the surface of the second substrate comprises etching.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of contacting the surface of the second substrate is performed for a period of time to allow lateral movement over the surface of the second substrate of the ink transferred from the edge.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising an act of removing the solvent from the barrier layer.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein an increase in the first and second contact time between the contact surface of the protruding feature and the surface of the first or second substrate results in the transfer of an increasing fraction of the ink from the edges to the surface of the second substrate.